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NEW YORK (AP) - THE ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR OF AN LEGAL DEFENSE FUND FOR FBI AGENTS SAID YESTERDAY HE HAS BEEN TOLD BY "THE HIGHEST SOURCES" THAT FORMER CIA DIRECTOR RICHARD HELMS WILL SOON BE INDICTED.

MARVIN LIESMAN OF THE AD HOC CITIZENS' LEGAL DEFENSE FUND FOR THE FBI MADE THE COMMENT IN RESPONSE TO A QUERY ABOUT A STATEMENT FORMER TREASURY SECRETARY WILLIAM E. SIMON ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP YESTERDAY PROMISING MONEY FOR HELMS' LEGAL DEFENSE FOR HIS "POSSIBLE INDICTMENT."

A SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE HAS RECOMMENDED PERJURY CHARGES BE FILED AGAINST HELMS FOR HIS 1973 TESTIMONY ON CIA ACTIVITIES IN CHILE.

"I HAVE HEARD FROM THE HIGHEST SOURCES THAT THE INDICTMENT OF HELMS, WHICH HAD BEEN PENDING, WOULD BE HANDED UP," LIESMAN SAID. "WE DON'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THE LEGAL THING. WE JUST WANT THESE GUYS TO HAVE THE BEST DEFENSE POSSIBLE."

SIMON, IN A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW, DENIED BEING PRIVY TO SECRET INFORMATION THAT A HELMS INDICTMENT WAS FORTHCOMING. BUT HE SAID THE AD HOC COMMITTEE DECIDED LAST THURSDAY "IF THAT HAPPENED THAT WE WOULD EXPAND OUR SCOPE TO COVER THAT AS WELL."

IN JANUARY 1975, IN SECRET TESTIMONY, HELMS ADMITTED HE WITHHELD FROM SENATE COMMITTEES SOME INFORMATION ABOUT CIA WORK IN CHILE AND WITHHELD INFORMATION ABOUT THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION'S DESIRE TO HAVE THE MARXIST GOVERNMENT OF SALVADOR ALLENDE OVERTHROWN.

DURING THE FIRST HEARINGS, HELMS DENIED - USUALLY WITH SIMPLE YES OR NO ANSWERS - INVOLVEMENT IN THE SUCCESSFUL COUP OF ALLENDE'S GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER, AT THE 1975 HEARINGS, HELMS SAID HE THOUGHT HE SHOULD HAVE ANSWERED THE EARLIER QUESTIONS "IN A MUCH MORE EXTENSIVE WAY."

IN THE AD HOC COMMITTEE'S RELEASE, SIMON SAID THE NATION'S LAW ENFORCEMENT AND INTELLIGENCE-GATHERING AGENCIES ARE BEING ENDANGERED "THROUGH LEGAL HARRASSMENT, JUDICIAL WEAKNESS AND A SPATE OF CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATIONS."

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THE DEFENSE FUND WAS FOUNDED LAST MAY BY SIMON; FORMER NEW YORK REPUBLICAN SEN. JAMES L. BUCKLEY AND AMBASSADOR CLARE BOOTH LUCE; PRINCIPALLY TO RAISE MONEY FOR 25-YEAR FBI VETERAN JOHN J. KEARNEY, WHO WAS INDICTED EARLIER THIS YEAR FOR ALLEGEDLY EMPLOYING ILLEGAL SURVEILLANCE TECHNIQUES IN PURSUIT OF THE (WEATHER UNDERGROUND) IN OFFSHOOT OF RADICAL STUDENT GROUPS OF THE 1960s. SIMON SAID \$200,000 HAD BEEN RAISED IN THE LAST THREE MONTHS.

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